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## BOOK REVIEWS

most witnesses can not tell the truth when they want to, does not mean that we must give up the taking of testimony; rather that we must make the utmost effort to recognize and avoid or to allow for the existence of these errors. It is folly for jurisprudence to neglect or to try to minimize the work done by psychologists in the scientific study of testimony. Particular attention is called to the danger of false testimony that arises when the mind of the witness is in some respect abnormal (various forms of mental deficiency and disorganization in their mild or early stages) without this fact being recognized by the court. The author also deprecates the present methods of legal procedure in Germany, whereby the advantages of the "narrative" or "primary report" are lost and the accuracy of the best witness is injured by a series of detailed interrogations, often shot through with suggestive questions.

The second portion of the pamphlet discusses in detailed manner the problem of the oath, with reference, naturally, to the conditions obtaining in Germany. He points out that the necessity of a religious oath in the swearing of witnesses seems axiomatic to many jurists. However, Switzerland gets on without a religious oath and there are perfectly good grounds for dispensing with it in Germany. The relation of church and state in their mutual "proprietaryship" of the oath are treated at length. Gmelin speaks of the church as having lent or delegated the oath to the state. He argues that the church ought to be glad to have the oath dispensed with in civic life, that the state has no moral right to compel any person to take a religious oath, that the whole process of swearing the witness is a relic of primitive times, wholly out of place in modern civilization and culture, that the religious factor in the oath does not keep liars from lying nor make a good witness any better, while, as for the few who are kept from perjury by its use, most of them would be equally cautious if they were told that false testimony would be punished by ten years' imprisonment, and the handful that remain are not worth considering. The abolishment of the oath is one more step in the emancipation of the state from the forms of the church. But let us by no means consider the use of the facultative oath. To do so invites a colossal social danger. The religious oath should be abolished entirely and its place taken by a solemn affirmation of intent to tell the truth, supported by due warning on the part of the judge of the consequences of false testimony.

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G. M. WHIPPLE.

LE CHIEN DE GARDE, DE DÉFENSE ET DE POLICE. By *Joseph Couplet*. Bruxelles: J. Lebegue et Cie, 1911. Pp. 261.

This book is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is devoted by the author to a consideration of the physiology of the dog. There is an excellent section devoted to the subject of hydrophobia, its detection, its differentiation from other distempers, and advice to those who may be bitten by a rabid dog. The value of this section is so great to the practical police officer that every policeman ought to be supplied with a translation of it for his personal use. The remainder of the first chapter is devoted to other diseases of dogs, the breeding of dogs, with explicit directions on the subject and the hygiene of dog management.

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Each subject is exhaustively treated and every possible question has been answered by the author.

The second chapter is devoted to the history and characteristics of the sheepdog, which is considered by the author as the best police and watchdog. In particular M. Couplet has pointed out the activities of these sheepdogs in their warfare against the wolves who attack their charges have made them peculiarly well fitted for modern police work. Many pages of this chapter are devoted to a minute description of the physical characteristics of the various varieties of the Belgian sheepdogs.

The third chapter contains instructions for the training of dogs. Emphasis is placed upon the great patience which the trainer of dogs must possess. The successive lessons in the training of the dog are the promenade, the recall, lying down, standing up, sitting down, acceptance of food from strangers, watching and attack and defense. Minute instructions are given to compel obedience to each of these commands.

In the fourth chapter the author devotes his attention exclusively to police dogs. For police work the dog must receive, in addition to the training outlined in the third chapter, additional training in getting over fences, in jumping, in seeking, bringing back and watching criminals, and in stopping a criminal when he runs away. The policeman must also be able to stop the attack of a police dog when such an attack has been ordered by him through an error on his part. The police dog must also of his own accord give assistance to a policeman who whistles for aid. In this chapter, also, the author gives full detailed instructions for the training of police dogs in the manner required for efficient police service.

The fifth chapter is devoted to the exhibition of police dogs and dog shows, and does not concern us as practical police officers. The appendices treat of the manner in which dogs may be broken of their bad habits of running after other dogs and chasing cats, as well as their work in the connection with the protection of sheep.

During the last few years many books and pamphlets treating of police dogs have been printed, especially in France and Germany. Some of these books furnish interesting reading; some possess value and some are neither interesting nor valuable. M. Couplet's book which the reviewer has seen on this subject is both interesting and extremely valuable. A copy of this French book ought to be on file at the police headquarters of every American city in which police dogs are regularly employed and police dogs ought to be employed by every police department operating wholly or partly in rural or suburban districts. If an English translation of this book were made available for use it would be strongly recommended that a copy be placed in the hands of every police officer. In nearly every American city in which police dogs are not officially employed the policemen pick up vagrant dogs on the street and have them accompany them on their late night tours for companionship and protection. With the assistance of this book every policeman could increase the usefulness of his dog companion by giving him the benefit of intelligent additional training in police work.

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